

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Examiner's Office Action mailed January 27, 2005. The Examiner's comments in that Action have been carefully considered.

Of the pending claims 1-122, claim 1 has been rejected, and claims 12-22 have been objected to because they depend on claim 1. The Examiner states that if rewritten in independent form, these claims would also be allowed. Remaining claims 2-11, 23-41 and 59-122, have been allowed.

In order to place the allowable claims into condition for allowance, claim 12 has been amended to add the subject matter of claim 1, on which it depended. Now, amended claim 12 is condition for allowance. Since allowable claims 13-22 all depend directly or indirectly on allowable claim 12, all of these claims should be allowed with the allowance of claim 12.

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 on new grounds – as being fully anticipated by the reference Polidor et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,690,417. In making this rejection, the Examiner has indicated in paragraph 5, bridging pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action that Polidor includes a substantially rigid mounting template for providing a substantially fixed *hollow volume*” (emphasis added). The Examiner also states that the diodes are mounted within such hollow volume of the frame. The Examiner's rejection in this regard is respectfully traversed on the basis of the arguments given below.

It is clear, for example, that Polidor does not disclose a template which provides a hollow volume as contemplated by the present invention. In fact, Polidor is clear that the housing 14 on which the LEDs are mounted is a disk (column, line 60). The patentee furthermore states that this construction that has been disclosed in the reference has been selected because it has the advantage that the lamps can be “simply mounted in a common plane in housing 14” (column 4, lines 63-65). There can be no ambiguity in Polidor's express teaching of the use of flat support structure that cannot,

by definition, provide a “hollow volume,” as suggested by the Examiner.

Polidor ‘417 discloses a focusing multidirectional surface illuminator with means for adjusting the orientation and inclination of incident illumination of objects placed in a worktable for inspection. The surface illuminator comprises a first and second cylindrical housing with a central axial bore in which multiple light sources lying in a common plane that extends normal to the axis of said bore direct a beam of light substantially parallel to said central axis and toward the open end of the first and second housings. A Fresnel lens mounted in front of these housings redirects the parallel light beams toward a focused point on the objects placed in said worktable.

Although Polidor ‘417 implies that the diodes of each ring may have their beam axes inclined at different angles to the central axes of the housings, it claims the use of a Fresnel lens to redirect the individual and parallel light beams projected from each straightly mounted and non-inclined diodes to a focused point. In contrast, the subject invention consists primarily of LEDs compactly arranged on a mounting template with each LED in the array individually mounted and aimed, so that all the LED light beams focus to a common point. There is no use of a Fresnel lens implied or taught in the present invention.

Further, the applied reference uses a Fresnel lens and a diffusing element to provide “a more uniform illumination, both angularly and spacially.” This implies that the diodes that form the annular rings around the cylindrical housings are mounted on a flat surface as shown in Polidor ‘417, Figs. 1, 3, and 4. This is in contrast to the present invention, which consists of a large array of LEDs compactly arranged on a non-flat surface mounting template and configured as a hollow volume with each LED in the array individually mounted and aimed toward a common focused point. The use of a non-flat mounting surface that is configured as a hollow volume allows for the placement of a great

number of LEDs (because the volume is hollow), the advantages of which are disclosed in the specification of the subject application.

The use of first and second cylindrical housings in Polidor '417 takes up valuable LED "real estate." In contrast, in the present invention the absence of first and second cylindrical housings with central axes allows a greater number of LEDs to be placed in the hollow volume and results in a much brighter light output source as compared to the surface illuminator of the applied reference.

In view of the amendment to claim 12, and in view of the arguments above, it is respectfully submitted that this patent application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is requested to withdraw his rejections contained in the Action of January 27, 2005, and to allow all the pending claims.

Early allowance and issuance are therefore respectfully solicited.

Applicant here petitions that any and all extensions of time of the term necessary to render this response timely be granted. COSTS FOR SUCH EXTENSION(S) AND/OR ANY OTHER FEE DUE WITH THIS PAPER THAT ARE NOT FULLY COVERED BY AN ENCLOSED CHECK MAY BE CHARGED TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT #10-0100.

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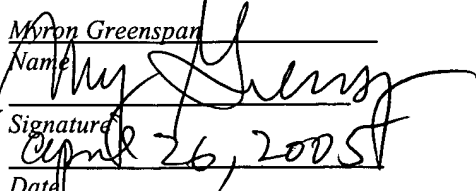
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